

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 27, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR Honorable Edward A. McDermott
Director, Office of Emergency Planning

I am informed that you plan to hold a conference of the National Defense Executive Reserve in October. There is a real need for a reserve of highly qualified individuals from American industry, labor and professional groups to provide additional leadership needed in time of national emergency.

In the past, these people have been selected after the emergencies developed. I believe we should select them in advance. They can then receive additional training through the programs of the participating departments and agencies, and a more rapid and certain means of meeting emergency problems will be available.

It is encouraging to know that men of the high caliber participating in the conference are prepared to serve in the Executive Reserve, committing themselves in advance to the heavy burdens that will be placed upon them if their services should be needed.

I hope that the October conference will strengthen the Executive Reserve program and furnish a forum for the exchange of ideas between the reservists and the key Government officials who are working with them to strengthen our national security. All Federal departments with an interest in the program should participate fully in the conference and in the sponsorship of the Executive Reserve program.

I will be interested in receiving your report on the discussions that take place at the conference.

